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Contents for Week of October 9, 1933. Vol. XII. No. 14.

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Photograph by "Russ-Photo"

CHANGING RUSSIA HAS ITS PICTURE TAKEN

From Siberia to the Ukraine, and from Turkistan to the White Sea, the Soviet Union is employing the motion picture and local press to carry its ideas to the people. This month the Ukraine is harvesting a record crop of wheat. Most of it was raised on "socialized" farms (See Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The Ukraine, Bread Basket of the Soviet Union

WAVING fields of golden grain; stretching as far as the eye can reach across the gradually descending steppes!

American newspaper correspondents in the Ukraine report that a bumper crop of wheat is being harvested in the region which for centuries was the bread basket of eastern Europe. In 1932 famine stalked in the Ukraine, but this year, with 80 per cent of all the cultivated land "socialized" (peasants working on a share basis upon State farms), more than 5,000,000 tons of wheat, it is estimated, should assure ample bread for the Ukraine's 33,000,000 population, with a surplus to be sold to other parts of the Soviet Union.

Also Known as "Little Russia"

Where and what is the Ukraine? As one of the seven constituent (semi-independent) republics of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine is more formally known to-day as the "Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic." Third largest of the major divisions of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine fills the southwest corner of the great nation, its boundaries touching Poland, disputed Bessarabia, White Russia, Russia proper, and the Black and Azov Seas.

Although it embraces only about 2 per cent of the total area of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine possesses almost a fifth of its population. Its rich black soil and steppe land produce countless sugar beets and other foodstuffs in addition to wheat and cereals. From the Ukraine, too, come three-quarters of the coal, 60 per cent of the iron ore, and much of the manganese and other minerals of the Soviet Union.

As "Little Russia," its affectionate nickname, the Ukraine has had a troublous career. The Poles and Lithuanians of a few centuries ago knew well this restless section over which they attempted to rule. Imperial Russia was long troubled by the "Peck's bad boy" of the steppes, which even sent raiding parties to annoy the Turks and Tatars.

The wild Scythians helped to feed ancient Greece and her colonies from these same endless steppes. A thousand years ago, Kiev, the mother of Russian cities, was already an important place. When Saxons ruled England, the banks of the Dnieper were a meeting-place of many races, drawn there by commerce. Religious strife had not yet arisen, for all were idol-worshippers. Even then, however, Slavs were obtaining a foothold, sowing and reaping their harvests and sending their surplus grain down the river to the Black Sea.

The name Ukraine itself means "border marches." For centuries it was the bulwark that protected Poland and Lithuania from the Tatars, Turks, and other migrating Orientals.

Kiev, City of Mills and Shrines

The largest city of modern Ukraine is Kiev, in the northwestern part of the Republic, upon the banks of the muddy Dnieper, the Ohio River of Russia. In addition to its mills and shops, Kiev carries on an important commerce in timber, livestock, and sugar beets. Its many shrines and holy places still attract pilgrims. Kiev at one time was the capital of all Russia.

Kharkov, the present seat of the Ukrainian Soviet government, is the most important commercial city of the Ukraine. Nearby is the Donetz coal basin and the Krivoi-Rog iron district, as well as thousands of acres of rich, black-earth farmland.

Odessa, on Ukraine's Black Sea coast, is the chief southern seaport of the Soviet Union. At Dneprostroy, on the Dnieper River, one of the world's largest hydroelectric plants was opened last year. Three miles from the dam the Soviet Government is building an industrial center which will spread over 14 square miles. When completed, this will be one of the chief chemical, coke, and metal producing districts of Europe.

Most of the small towns of the Ukraine are separated from each other by enormous distances, with imperfect means of travel between them. The chief need of the Ukraine to-day is for more railroads, and paved highways. A few of the rivers are navigable, but most of the traffic of the region is carried by carts and an increasing number of big motor trucks.

Resembles Kansas Prairies

To the average dweller in the Ukraine, cities and industry are still a bit alien and strange. The Ukraine for centuries has meant steppes, reaching in limitless sweeps into the distance until sky and horizon meet in a barely perceptible line. Much of it reminds the American visitor of the prairies of western Kansas and Nebraska, or eastern Colorado. In spring and summer the countryside is an ocean of verdure. The varied shades of green of the growing vegetation are dotted with flowers of many hues; later, in the autumn, after the crops are

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COSTUMES OF THE PEASANTS OF THE UKRAINE, OR "LITTLE RUSSIA"

The Ukraine, like the other parts of the Soviet Union, is undergoing many changes, and colorful native garb, such as shown above, is seldom worn except on holidays in remote rural regions. Woolen caps and factory-made clothing have nearly replaced the gay colors, embroidery, beads, and fringes of the typical peasant costumes of the past (See Bulletin No. 1).

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Constitutions, Old and New, Throughout the World

WHEN was the Constitution of the United States adopted?

Who is known as the "Father of the Constitution"?

Where is the original document of the Constitution to-day?

Not every student, nor average American, can answer quickly "1787," "James Madison," and "Library of Congress, Washington, D. C."

Sesquicentennial in 1937 Suggested

To bring to Americans and others a better understanding of this historic document, and of the rôle it has played in the growth and development of the United States, the New York State Historical Association suggests that a sesquicentennial of the adoption of the Federal Constitution be held in 1937.

The celebration, it is proposed, could be along lines similar to the George Washington bicentennial.

Constitutions, or guarantees of basic law and principles, are nothing new in the light of history. The United States is often regarded as the originator of the device, but the Greeks had a series of City-State Constitutions, 158 in number, three centuries before the birth of Christ. Emperor Justinian used the word for a code of Roman laws compiled during his reign.

To-day, nearly every country in the civilized world has a Constitution of some sort, although nine-tenths of them are less than fifty years old. All the important countries of the world, except England, have written Constitutions. In effect England has a "Constitution," because the courts and Parliament recognize a general series of fundamental laws, often referred to as "Constitutional Law," which in effect are similar to the written Constitutions of other lands.

The colonies and self-governing Dominions of the British Commonwealth, such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, etc., nearly all have written Constitutions.

Changes Since World War

World-wide adoption of written Constitutions followed many changes in government after the World War. Soviet Russia adopted a Constitution on Marxian principles, in 1918, which has been a model for other states of the Soviet Union. Between 1919-25 the Soviet Constitution underwent a number of changes.

Other countries whose people received Constitutions, or radical changes in existing Constitutions, since the World War include: Afghanistan, Albania, Estonia, Ethiopia, China, Finland, Lithuania, Egypt, Latvia, Germany, Irish Free State, Free City of Danzig, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Greece, Turkey, Iceland, Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Spain.

Mexico amended its Constitution in 1929 and now has one of the most advanced of the newer Federal Constitutions, while the Polish Constitution has undergone a number of changes in recent months. Cuba has asked for a constitutional convention to amend its fundamental laws.

A Double Layer of Constitutions

In a few countries state or divisional Constitutions underlie national Constitutions. The United States, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Switzerland, Mexico, and the Soviet Union are the chief "federalistic" republics, with two complete constitu-

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harvested, it becomes a brown waste of stubble and burned-up pastures; in winter it is a white, glistening expanse of snow.

As a traveler approaches the Ukraine from the north, he sees the unending forest land disappear—not suddenly, but by degrees. Most of the Ukraine is treeless, and a feeling of sadness and almost depression creeps upon one as he travels over the steppes for the first time.

Note: For additional background material about this and other regions of Russia see: "The Ukraine, Past and Present," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1918. See also: "The First Airship Flight Around the World (Graf Zeppelin)," June, 1930; "Some Impressions of 150,000 Miles of Travel," May, 1930; "Russia of the Hour," November, 1926; "The Races of Europe," December, 1918; and "Russia's Orphan Races," October, 1918.

Bound volumes of the *National Geographic Magazine* may be consulted in your school or public library.

Bulletin No. 1, October 9, 1933.

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Photograph from Keystone View Company

A UKRAINIAN FAMILY CUTTING UP SEED POTATOES

From the rich, black steppe land of the Ukraine came nine-tenths of the grain exported by Imperial Russia before the World War. To-day it is the chief wheat and sugar beet-raising section of the Soviet Union. In addition, it produces large quantities of potatoes, vegetables, and some livestock.

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Bechuanaland Protectorate, a South African "Detour"

BECAUSE a native African chieftain in Bechuanaland Protectorate flogged a white man, the chieftain has been ordered into exile by British resident authorities. Nearly 35,000 native tribesmen must choose a new leader.

Seldom does Bechuanaland Protectorate come into the gristmill of world news. This huge South African blind spot was almost as little known to white men as the Polar regions until a British government expedition made a survey of it in 1925, reporting the discovery of several large native towns, stretches of fertile land, and thriving native tribes which hitherto were unknown.

In Area Larger Than State of Texas

Bechuanaland Protectorate sprawls over a great portion of central South Africa, a tableland of geographic extremes ranging from vast deserts to almost impenetrable swamps. With an area greater than that of the State of Texas, it has fewer than 2,000 European inhabitants. The native population is about 150,000.

The march of the white man's civilization in South Africa has seldom touched or affected this great region. To the east is prosperous and populous Transvaal, and Southern Rhodesia; on the north are the rich forests of Northern Rhodesia and of the Portuguese colony of Angola; to the west is the former German province of Southwest Africa, now under a Union of South Africa Mandate; and to the south are the Cape provinces, richest and most developed of all.

With railroads, cities and other landmarks of civilization on every side, Bechuanaland Protectorate has very likely spelled "detour" to adventurer and homesteader alike. The latest maps do not list a permanent settlement in its great, largely unexplored interior. Tribes that are extremely primitive are known to inhabit this region. Some of them are believed not to be of African origin. The Protectorate is, therefore, a sort of geographic and ethnological "safety zone," where the native blacks can watch the rush and whirl of progress on every hand, but can safely remain in blissful ignorance and leisure within.

Extremes of Climate

In climate, as usually is the case, rests the explanation for this seeming oversight on the part of European fortune seekers. Bechuanaland Protectorate (which should not be confused with Bechuanaland, a part of the province of the Cape of Good Hope in the Union of South Africa) is divided into two zones. These can be roughly classified as the wet and the dry. The wet, called Ngamaland, is a region of sluggish rivers and swamps, in which tropical vegetation grows in profusion. It covers the entire northern part of the Protectorate. The central and southern sections comprise a great sand belt, largely a desert, for the mountains of the surrounding provinces cut off the rain.

In some respects, however, it is a mistake to call this dry section a desert, for it has little in common with such regions as the Libyan, or the Mohave, or the Arabian deserts. The scant rainfall is usually absorbed by the sand, or quickly evaporated, but where it collects in pools or watercourses there is a general underground flow, not far below the surface.

The long dunes are covered with thick grass and bush. Destructive sandstorms are rare. The soil is not rich enough to support much agriculture, but cattle raising is carried on to a limited extent.

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tional structures. Bolivia once was so divided, but in 1886 the sovereignty of the states was abolished and they became mere departments under the Bolivian Constitution.

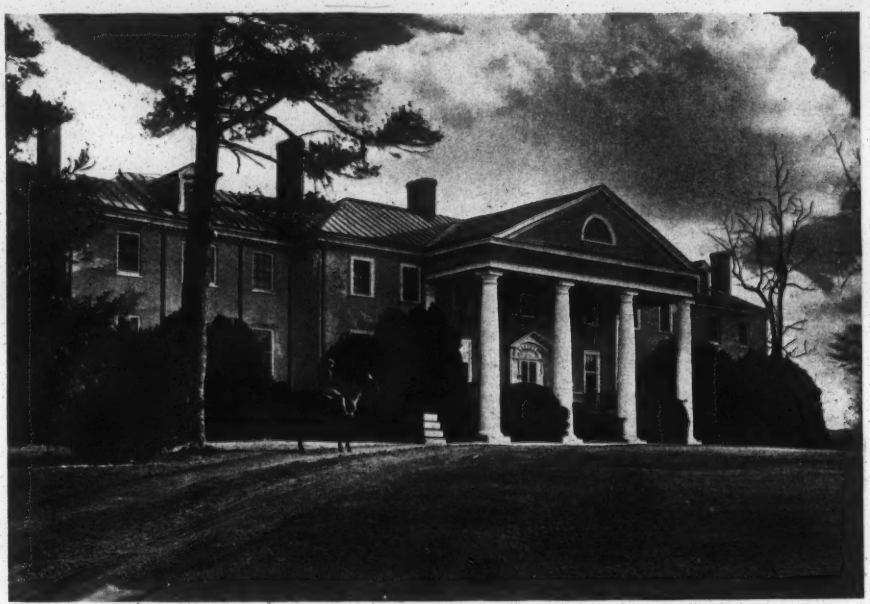
American Constitution Used as Model

Most of the Constitutions of the Western World, and many of the newer ones of Europe, are modeled directly on that of the United States. Chile is an outstanding exception, in that its Constitution calls for a "responsible cabinet" whose members sit in the Chilean Congress and must resign when there is a formal vote of "lack of confidence."

In 1921 an order of the President of the United States transferred the original document of the Constitution of the United States, along with the original Declaration of Independence, from the State Department to the Library of Congress. There, in the gallery above the door and shielded from strong light by amber glass, the venerable documents may be examined by thousands of patriotic visitors who come to Washington annually.

Note: For additional helpful references see: "The Travels of George Washington," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1932; "Washington Through the Years," November, 1931; "Virginia—A Commonwealth That Has Come Back," April, 1929; "So Big Texas," June, 1928; "The Island of the Sagas (Iceland)," April, 1928; "The Transformation of Washington," June, 1923; "Massachusetts, Its Position in the Life of the Nation," April, 1923; "The Land of the Free in Afriea (Liberia)," October, 1922; "Denmark and the Danes," August, 1922; "The New Map of Europe," February, 1921; "The League of Nations, What It Means and What It Must Be," January, 1919; and "Great Britain's Bread upon the Waters," March, 1916.

Bulletin No. 2, October 9, 1933.



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HOME OF THE FATHER OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

Here, at Montpelier, near Orange, Virginia, lived James Madison, fourth President of the United States, and here he and his wife are buried. The parents of the present owner of Montpelier added a story to both wings and enlarged them. The grounds around the stately mansion, including the beautiful boxwood, are well maintained. Not far away is Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence.

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Andorra, Vest Pocket Nation, Keeps Spain and France Guessing

ANDORRA, oldest and one of the most isolated republics in the world, is still a problem to its big neighbors, Spain and France. The vestpocket nation, whose government has been unaltered since medieval days while all about it Europe seethed with change, was recently "invaded" by French gendarmes. France says gendarmes were sent to put down revolutionary disturbances, but Spanish officials protested this crossing of a frontier closed to foreign troops for centuries.

Last month Andorra held an election, rejecting the Presidential candidate favored by both France and Spain, and selecting Pere Torres, a peasant and "dirt farmer" like most of his countrymen. For Vice-President, or second syndic, the choice was Francisco Molne Palanques, happily the man approved by all factions.

Protected by France and a Spanish Bishop

The tiny state of Andorra, closely guarded by the lofty, snow-capped Pyrenees, is composed of a cluster of steep, rocky valleys wedged between France and Spain. Its entire area is only 191 square miles—less than one-fifth that of Rhode Island.

The Andorrans trace their privilege of self-government back to the days of Charlemagne, who thus rewarded them for their assistance in repelling the Saracens. Although popularly termed a republic, Andorra is really a medieval feudal state under the personal protection of two overlords, the President of France and the Spanish Bishop of Urgel. To settle an old dispute, the French Count of Foix and the Bishop of Urgel were, in 1278, given equal authority over "Les Valleés et Suzeraineté d'Andorre," which remains the country's official title to-day.

Through Henry of Navarre and the Kings of France the rights of Foix have descended to the President of the Republic who still receives annual dues from Andorra amounting to less than a hundred dollars. The Bishop of Urgel also receives dues, including 12 cheeses, 12 chickens, and 6 hams!

Until 1913 the only approach to Andorra was over a rough mountain pass from Hospitalet on the French side, or along an equally rough mule track from the Spanish town of Seo de Urgel. Now a modern highway, Andorra's only road, follows the mule track, while a shaky motor bus has replaced the mule.

A Nation of Hardy Farmers

Save for electric lights and one movie, life for the less than six thousand inhabitants has changed little since medieval days. They are a nation of farmers; hardy, independent mountaineers, devoted to a land where living is a ceaseless struggle. The severe winters and hot, dry summers make even agriculture difficult. Sheep and goats graze on the scanty grass of upland pastures, and tobacco forms the main crop in irrigated valley bottoms. Export of the latter, chiefly contraband, provides a major source of revenue.

Luckily the cost of living is low in a country that has no taxes, no tariffs, and no army. Even the police force is voluntary and the President's salary totals $15 a year. This official is elected by a General Council of 24 men, two representatives from each of the six provinces. Judicial authority is vested in two civil judges appointed by the Bishop of Urgel and the President of France. Both French and Spanish currency is used, but the language is Catalan (the dialect of the Province of Catalonia, Spain).

The capital, Andorra-la-Vella (Andorra the Ancient), like the other villages of the country, is an untidy huddle of plain stone houses with black slate roofs and unpainted wooden balconies which almost meet over the narrow streets.

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For administrative purposes Bechuanaland Protectorate is divided into eleven districts, each under a Resident Magistrate. A resident Commissioner, or overlord, for the Protectorate resides at Mafeking, in the territory of Bechuanaland, south of the Protectorate, and his assistant is stationed in the northeastern part of the Protectorate. Each native chief, however, rules his own people. The Protectorate is governed as a whole on the lines of a British crown colony.

Chief of the native towns is Serowe, with more than 17,000 inhabitants, the capital of the Bamangwato district. Just north of it is the Great Salt Lake of the region, Lake Makalakari. Here in vast wastes of salt marshes and sand live a people who have been called the most backward in Africa. The desert and marshes have been their protection from the white man and other negro tribes, fortresses "whose walls are the want of fresh water."

The Protectorate has at least one claim to world consideration, however, for just within its eastern boundary runs a section of the Cape-to-Cairo main line, or at least what will be the Cape-to-Cairo main line when Cecil Rhodes' dream finally comes true. Parallel with it also are the trunk telegraph lines to the north.

Within 200 miles of the eastern border is Pretoria, the new administrative capital of the Union, and Johannesburg, the metropolis of the southern part of the continent. Near the northeast corner is Victoria Falls. Extensive deposits of minerals have been found in the Protectorate, including gold, silver and coal. They have not been developed owing to poor living conditions and the lack of roads and railways.

Note: Students preparing unit or project assignments about the English possessions and dependencies of southern Africa should also consult: "Under the South African Union," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1931; "Hunting an Observatory," October, 1926; "Through the Deserts and Jungles of Africa by Motor," June, 1926; "Cairo to Cape Town, Overland," February, 1925; "African Scenes from the Equator to the Cape," October, 1922; and "Great Britain's Bread upon the Waters," March, 1916.

Bulletin No. 3, October 9, 1933.

Photograph by Kathleen Beecher

A SOUTH AFRICAN TRIBAL DANCE IN TRANSVAAL

Native tribesmen present a problem for the growing towns of British and Boer settlers in southern Africa. These queer whitewashed figures, in the Hawaiian-like ballet skirts, are Kafirs ready to initiate young members of the tribe into manhood.

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Camagüey, Moorish City in the Heart of Cuba

A CLASH of authority between the new government and local troops in the interior of Cuba has drawn attention to Camagüey, capital of the Cuban province of the same name, and the second largest city on the island.

Located about 50 miles inland from Nuevitas Bay, with which it is connected by rail, Camagüey is 343 miles from Havana and 197 miles from Santiago. It is supposed to be the "place of fifty houses and a thousand people" found by the messengers of Columbus when he sent them inland to deliver official letters to the rajah of the oriental country in which he believed himself to be.

Sacked by Morgan, the Pirate

Camagüey is the Indian name of the village known to the early Spanish explorers as "the always faithful, very noble, and very loyal city of Santa Maria de Puerto Principe," the first site of which was pitched by Diego de Velásquez on Nuevitas Bay, on the northern coast of Cuba, possibly where Baya now stands. This was about 1514.

A few years after this date an inland location was made, with the idea of escaping the ravages of the pirates who harried the Spanish Main. The change in name from Puerto Principe to the original Camagüey, however, was made only a decade or so ago. The inland move did not deter Henry Morgan from sacking the village in 1668, after landing on the south side of Cuba.

Camagüey's surrender to modernity is slow. Glass window fronts have made their appearance in the shops, but the Moorish houses remain; the medieval religious processions wend their way through speckless and sanitary streets; the clang of the trolley gong resounds through the town, but the walls still reverberate to the clatter of hoofs, for automobiles have not entirely replaced saddle and draft horses.

Huge Jars Once the Town's "Water Works"

Among the peculiar features of Camagüey houses are the tinajones, enormous earthen jars, some of them over 100 years old, six feet both in height and diameter, and with a capacity of 500 gallons. They were used not many years ago to collect rain water.

Following the Spanish-American War this method of collecting water provided employment for an inspector, who called once a week and put live minnows into the jars to feed on mosquito larvae; but a modern water supply system since then has relegated the tinajon to service as a palm pot.

Camagüey was built but shortly after the Spanish conquest of the Moors, when art, architecture, and engineering were learned in the Arabic universities of Toledo, Cordova, Granada, and Sevilla. Therefore the city bears a truly Moorish aspect, the housefronts being of uniform height and type, with the same fortress-like doors and cloister-like windows.

Camagüey Is Truly "Colorful"

There is no color scheme in Camagüey—the town is a welter of color. From the air it appears as if some giant hand had scrambled the solar spectrum. Each house shows forth the tint that most appeals to its owner. Blues and yellows, salmon-pink, crimson, beryl-green, rose-red, violet, orange, and ultramarine are all

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The "House of the Valleys" or Parliament House, with its medieval turret and short, blunt belfry, is of the same square, primitive architecture. Over the Roman arch door are the ancient arms of the State: the cross and miter of the Bishop of Urgel, the bulls of Béarn, and the palings of Foix and Catalonia.

Note: For recent photographs and a description of this little-known nation see "Andorra—Museum of Feudal Europe," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1933; and "A Unique Republic, Where Smuggling Is an Industry," March, 1918.

Bulletin No. 4, October 9, 1933.

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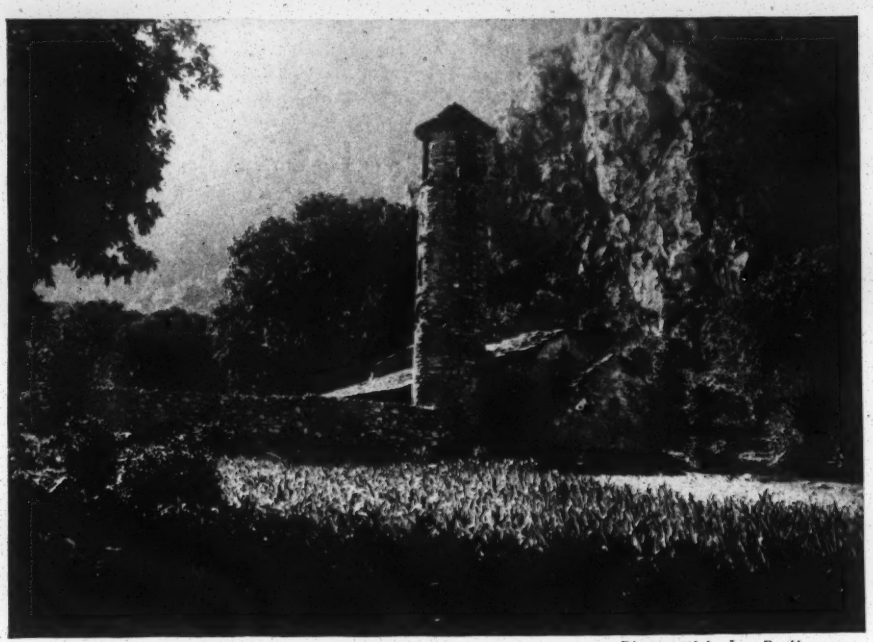

Photograph by Jose B. Alemany

FLAT STONE IS THE BUILDING MATERIAL OF ANDORRA

The Byzantine church of Santa Coloma, with its quaint, round tower, is typical of the architecture of this tiny Republic, hidden in the mountains between Spain and France. Andorra's green valleys and gray rocky crags resemble, somewhat, those of the mountains of Colorado.

mixed in indescribable confusion, while in the center stands the old cathedral, gamboge and blue, its Moorish arches tinted green, its venerable steeple of weathered pinks, greens, browns and yellows, and overhead the bluest of blue skies, and underfoot the glaring white of the streets. The city of Camagüey knows no twilight zone.

Plaza Named for an American

The streets seem the crookedest in the world, planned with the intention of bewildering the buccaneers. One of the plazas is named for Charles A. Dana, in recognition of the services rendered to the cause of Cuban independence by the late editor of the New York Sun. The natives are fierce-eyed, but soft-spoken and hospitable.

The original white inhabitants are almost entirely descended from twenty old and rich families and the color line is drawn more closely there than in any city in Cuba. The place has always been famous for its fine horses, skilled horsemen, and beautiful women.

Note: Cuba, its resources, cities, and customs are also described in: "Cuba—The Isle of Romance," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1933; "Some Impressions of 150,000 Miles of Travel," May, 1930; "By Seaplane to Six Continents," September, 1928; "To Bogotá and Back by Air," May, 1928; "How Latin America Looks from the Air," October, 1927; "On the Shores of the Caribbean," February, 1922; "Across the Equator with the American Navy," June, 1921; and "Cuba—the Sugar Mill of the Antilles," July, 1920.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN: "Cuba, Island of Sugar, Tobacco, and Unrest," week of October 2, 1933.

Bulletin No. 5, October 9, 1933.

© *Photograph by Sumner W. Matteson*

INLAND CUBA IS A REGION OF LARGE SUGAR AND TOBACCO ESTATES

Royal palms line the roadway leading to one of the big sugar plantations in the heart of Cuba. While good roads have brought automobiles, the oxcart is still the chief means of transport for cane en route from the fields to the railway or to the sugar mills.